

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07  
EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15  
NSC-05 H-01 SP-02 /096 W  
-----190630Z 065548 /14  
R 181501Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7489

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: SREF, ICEM  
SUBJ: ICEM SPRING SESSIONS

1. SUMMARY: FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF ICEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND 36TH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE (SCBF) WERE HELD IN GENEVA ON MAY 13-17. MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AND ROLE ICEM CAN PLAY IN REUNITING FAMILIES IN CONTEXT OF HELSINKI. ISSUE OF AMENDING CONSTITUTION WAS PUT OFF UNTIL FALL SESSIONS. DISCUSSION OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS WAS LIMITED AND INCONCLUSIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD TWO-DAY SESSION ON MAY 16-17 WITH DISCUSSIONS MOVING QUITE RAPIDLY ALONG. USUAL LIST OF NECESSARY ITEMS CONCERNED WITH THE BUDGET WERE COVERED AT A RATHER RAPID PACE. THE BUDGET DEFICIT PROJECTED FOR 1977 REMAINED AT APPROXIMATELY \$645,000 BUT ASSURANCES FROM THE ICEM DIRECTOR THAT BUDGET WOULD BE IN BALANCE BY THE END OF THE YEAR WERE GIVEN. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED NEW 1977 BUDGET PROPOSAL CALLING FOR AN INCREASE OF \$1,489,900 FOR NEW TOTAL OF \$29,496,500. DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION FROM SPAIN AND ARGENTINA, U.S. PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE FINANCIAL SITUATION WERE ENDORSED AND FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL. USDEL HAD HOPED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOULD APPROVE THESE PROPOSALS ON THE SPOT, BUT VENEZUELAN CHAIRMAN, WHO IS UNFAMILIAR WITH ICEM ACTIVITIES, DROPPED THE BALL AT CRUCIAL POINT IN THE DISCUSSION AND DECISION MUST NOW BE TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL IN THE FALL.

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3. MUCH ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO ROLE ICEM CAN PLAY IN REUNITING FAMILIES UNDER HELSINKI ACCORDS. LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN FROM CONGRESSMAN JOSHUA EILBERG ENCOURAGING THIS ACTIVITY WAS READ BY USDEL. FRG IN A PREPARED STATEMENT AGAIN INDICATED ITS PREFERENCE TO CONTINUE LONG-EXISTING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH HAS SERVED WELL TO REUNITE FAMILIES OF GERMAN NATIONALITY RATHER THAN USING ICEM CHANNEL. CONGRESSMAN THOMAS RAILSBACK READ A BRIEF STATEMENT MAIN POINT OF WHICH WAS THAT THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES ADMITTED TO THE US ANNUALLY HAD TO BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE HUGE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL ALIENS COMING INTO THE COUNTRY. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES.

4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISPOSED OF THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE ICEM CONSTITUTION WITHOUT DEBATE. MATTER WAS DEFERRED TO NEXT SESSION.

5. THE SCBG HELD A BRIEF SESSION ON MAY 13. SINCE THAT BODY MET LESS THAN SIX WEEKS AGO, THE DISCUSSION MAINLY CONCERNED A REAFFIRMATION OF CONCLUSION REACHED IN LATE MARCH. THE SCBF CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE ACTUAL CURRENT DEFICIT FOR THE 1977 REMAINED AT A LEVEL OF \$400,000.

5. COMMENT: ONE OF THE CHIEF DIFFICULTIES IN CONDUCTING ICEM BUSINESS THESE DAYS IS THE FACT THAT FEW DELEGATIONS ARE PREPARED ON THE SUBSTANCE AND THUS DISINCLINED TO PAR-

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TICIPATE IN SERIOUS DISCUSSION. ONLY THE US AND THE NETHERLANDS HAD PREPARED FORMAL STATEMENTS. OTHERS DISCUSSED THEIR OWN PAROCHIAL INTERESTS AND WHETHER OR NOT ICEM SERVES THEM. NO NEW INITIATIVES WERE MADE OR PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD. THE SESSION WAS DISAPPOINTING AND A STRONG EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE TO PUT MORE VITALITY INTO THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE FUTURE. END COMMENT. SORENSON

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## Message Attributes

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